



# NEWS RELEASE

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### ***SBA HURRICANE FLOYD RELIEF SOARS TO HALF BILLION***

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved over \$500 million dollars in disaster loans to residents of the 10 states struck by Hurricane Floyd, Administrator Aida Alvarez announced today.

More than 14,700 residents and business owners have been approved for the low-interest disaster loans since Hurricane Floyd tore along the East Coast from Florida to Connecticut in September. The loan approval amount for this disaster has surpassed 1989's Hurricane Hugo (\$491 million), and now ranks as one of the costliest disasters ever handled by the SBA.

**“Rebuilding one’s home or business is the most difficult part of dealing with the aftermath of a disaster, but the people in those states affected by Hurricane Floyd have shown great strength,” said Administrator Alvarez. “The SBA is the nation’s bank in times of disaster, and we will continue to work in those communities devastated by the hurricane as the rebuilding efforts continue.”**

SBA still has more than 250 field staff working in six states as loan applications continue to be processed.

Of the 10 states affected by the hurricane, North Carolina and New Jersey were hardest hit. 8,351 disaster loans for \$334 million were made in North Carolina. In New Jersey, nearly 2,500 loans were made for \$77 million.

The other states struck by the pounding rains and flooding caused by Hurricane Floyd include Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, Maryland, Connecticut, South Carolina, and Florida.

**-more-**

Hurricane Andrew in 1992 was the largest hurricane ever handled by the SBA, with \$696 million in disaster loans made to 25,992 residents and business owners in Florida, which was hardest hit, and the Gulf Coast states.

Homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes may apply for SBA low-interest disaster loans. SBA can lend up to \$200,000 to repair uninsured damages to homes. Homeowners and renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to repair or replace uninsured personal property such as furniture, clothing, and automobiles damaged during the disaster.

Businesses of all sizes may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair uninsured real estate, machinery, inventory and other business assets damaged during the disaster. SBA also makes working capital loans of up to \$1.5 million for small businesses financially impacted by the disaster, even if the property was not physically damaged.

For more information about SBA disaster loans, those in Florida, and North and South Carolina can call (800) 359-2227. Residents of Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Maryland can call (800) 659-2955.

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